

Let God Reign

During December we focused on God's providence. During January we resolved to get ourselves out of the way ... because it is not about us. And now, as we begin February ... we will talk about the need to trust God and let Him work. For what is God working? What is His plan? What is His purpose? Soul-winning. Why do we do this? Because of the priority of God.

I. How Cornerstone Can Confront the Culture

- A. Be a Place to Heal
 - 1. The spiritual war is very real ... casualties from both inside & outside the church.
 - 2. We go to action, in reaching out to those who hurt, and bringing / inviting them here for safety and refuge from a world gone mad.
- B. Treat the Cause
 - 1. The root ... the source of what is killing us is the total disregard for God.
 - 2. Colossians 3.15-17 ...
 - a) Look at 3.10 - *put on the new self.*
 - b) 3.12 - embrace your identity ... you are *chosen, holy, and dearly loved.*
 - c) 3.12b-14 - practice these things.
 - d) 3.15 - you are to allow the peace of Christ to *rule* your heart.
 - e) 3.16 - How do you accomplish? Allow *the word of Christ to dwell richly among you...*
 - f) 3.17 - You do *everything, in word or deed, in the name of the Lord Jesus.*

II. Paul, Apollos, and God

- A. 1 Corinthians 3.3-4 - Corinthians were acting like people without God. 3.5-9 - is where Paul goes to the source ... to the root of their problem.
- B. Seven statements to consider in 1 Corinthians 3.5-9:
 - 1. You are a servant. God is your Master.
 - a) 3.5 - *What then is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed...*
 - b) 2 Corinthians 4.1 - *we have this ministry because we were shown mercy.*
 - 2. God is the object of your faith. You only point to Him.
 - a) 3.5 - *servants ...through whom you believed.*
 - 3. You don't make yourself a servant ... or make converts. God does.
 - a) 3.5 - *and each has the role the Lord has given.*
 - 4. You plant or water, but God alone creates life.
 - a) 3.6 - *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.*
 - 5. You amount to nothing compared to God.
 - a) 3.7 - *So then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.* 3.9 - they are *God's coworkers.*
 - 6. Apollos/Paul were differing workers in the kingdom, not competitors.
 - a) 3.8 - they were allies with a common goal, who each receive a reward from God.
 - 7. There are workers on the farm and the building. God owns it all and God owns us.
 - a) 3.9 - *For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field, God's building.*

III. Conclusion

- A. God will bless our efforts only as we exalt Him in our hearts, homes, and church.
- B. Will you let God reign?